

CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A portable transaction device comprising:

transaction apparatus operative to participate in a monetary transaction;

authorization apparatus operative to authorize the transaction apparatus to operate based on stored authorization parameters, the stored authorization parameters comprising at least one of the following:

an identity of a user;

a time period; and

a distance; and

control apparatus operative to store the stored authorization parameters based on user input; and

proximity determination apparatus operative to determine a distance between the portable transaction device and a predetermined location,

wherein the distance comprises a maximum distance from the predetermined location at which the portable transaction device is authorized to be used,

and wherein the time period comprises a time period during which a user is authorized to use the portable transaction device.

Claim 2 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 1 and also comprising:

authentication apparatus comprising:

storage apparatus operative to store an identity of at least one authentic authorization control user; and

user determination apparatus operative to determine whether a user of the portable transaction device is an authentic authorization control user, based, at least in part, on the identity of at least one authorization control user stored in the storage apparatus, and

wherein the control apparatus is operative to store the stored authorization parameters based on a determination by the authentication apparatus that the user is an authentic authorization control user.

Claim 3 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 2 and wherein the user determination apparatus comprises an input device operative to receive a user-identifying input.

Claim 4 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 3 and wherein the input device comprises a password input device operative to receive a supplied password.

Claim 5 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 4 and wherein the input device comprises a keypad.

Claim 6 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 4 and wherein the input device comprises a voice recognition input device.

Claim 7 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 3 and wherein the input device comprises a biometric input device.

Claim 8 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 7 and wherein the biometric input device comprises a fingerprint input device.

Claim 9 (previously amended): A portable transaction device according to claim 2 and wherein the authentication apparatus also comprises:

authorization identity receiving apparatus operative to receive a signal indicating that a new user is to be considered as an authentic authorization control user and to store an identity of the new authorization control user in the storage apparatus.

Claim 10 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 2 and wherein the storage control apparatus has a maximum storage capacity sufficient to store an identity of at most one authentic authorization control user.

Claim 11 (previously amended): A portable transaction device according to claim 2 and wherein the storage control apparatus is operative to store an identity of at most one authentic authorization control user, and

the authentication apparatus also comprises:

authorization identity receiving apparatus operative to receive a signal indicating that a new user is to be considered as an authentic authorization control user and to store an identity of the new authorization control user in the storage apparatus.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (original): A portable transaction device according to claim 1 and wherein the identity of a user comprises an identity of a user who is authorized to use the portable transaction device.

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A portable element comprising:

authorization apparatus operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with at least one of the following authorization parameters:

at least one defined period of time;

a defined distance from a specified location;

at least one defined type of transaction;

at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and

at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable element,

wherein the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit is a function of at least one of the following:

an elapsed time since a predetermined time;

a fixed time;

a distance from a specified location;
a type of transaction; and
an identity of an authorized person authorized to use
the portable element.

Claim 16 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with a predefined function of at least two of the authorization parameters.

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the at least one authorized person comprises a plurality of authorized persons each associated with an authorization profile, and

the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element by each of the plurality of authorized persons in accordance with the authorization profile.

Claim 19 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the at least one authorized person comprises exactly one authorized person associated with an authorization profile, and

the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element by the one authorized person in accordance with the authorization profile.

Claim 20 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the portable element comprises a control device for controlling electronic equipment.

Claim 21 (original): A portable element according to claim 20 and wherein the control device comprises a television remote control device.

Claim 22 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the predetermined criterion comprises a predetermined transaction limit.

Claim 23 (original): A portable element according to claim 22 and wherein the predetermined transaction limit comprises a predetermined monetary limit.

Claim 24 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the authorization parameters are based, at least in part, on authorization parameter defining information, and also comprising:

authorization input apparatus operative to receive the authorization parameter defining information.

Claim 25 (original): A portable element according to claim 24 and wherein the authorization input apparatus comprises input authentication apparatus operative to authenticate the received authorization parameter defining information and to reject non-authentic received information.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method for use with a portable transaction device, the method comprising:

providing transaction apparatus operative to participate in a monetary transaction;

authorizing the transaction apparatus to operate based on stored authorization parameters, the stored authorization parameters comprising at least one of the following:

an identity of a user;

a time period; and

a distance; and

storing the stored authorization parameters based on user input; and

determining a distance between the portable transaction device and a predetermined location,

wherein the distance comprises a maximum distance from the predetermined location at which the transaction apparatus is authorized to be used,

and wherein the time period comprises a time period during which a user is authorized to use the portable transaction device.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method for use with a portable element, the method comprising:

providing a portable element;

authorizing use of the portable element in accordance with at least one of the following authorization parameters:

at least one defined period of time;

a defined distance from a specified location;

at least one defined type of transaction;

at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and

at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable element,

wherein the authorizing comprises authorizing use of the portable element up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit is a function of at least one of the following:

an elapsed time since a predetermined time;

a fixed time;

a distance from a specified location;

a type of transaction; and

an identity of an authorized person authorized to use the portable element.

Claims 28 - 40 (cancelled)

Claim 41 (new): A portable element comprising:

authorization apparatus operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with at least one of the following authorization parameters:

at least one defined period of time;

a defined distance from a specified location;

at least one defined type of transaction;
at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined
criterion; and
at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable
element,
wherein the portable element comprises a control device for
controlling electronic equipment, and
the control device comprises a television remote control device.

Claim 42 (new): A portable device comprising:

input apparatus operative to receive a user-identifying input and at
least one user selectable use limitation from a user of the portable device;
a control user identity unit operative to store information identifying
a control user;
user determination apparatus operative to determine whether the
user is an authentic control user based, at least in part, on the user-identifying
input and on the information stored in the control user identity unit; and
use limit apparatus operative to limit use of the portable device in
accordance with the at least one user selectable use limitation if the user is
determined to be an authentic control user by the user determination apparatus.

Claim 43 (new): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the use
limitation comprises at least one of the following:

at least one defined period of time;
a defined distance from a specified location;
at least one defined type of transaction;
at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and
at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable device

Claim 44 (new): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the use
limit apparatus is operative to limit use of the portable device up to a quantitative
use limit, and

the use limit is a function of at least one of the following:

- an elapsed time since a predetermined time;
- a fixed time;
- a distance from a specified location;
- a type of transaction; and
- an identity of an authorized person authorized to use the portable device.

Claim 45 (new): A portable device according to claim 43 and wherein the use limit apparatus is operative to limit use of the portable device up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit is a function of at least one of the following:

- an elapsed time since a predetermined time;
- a fixed time;
- a distance from a specified location;
- a type of transaction; and
- an identity of an authorized person authorized to use the portable device.

Claim 46 (new): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the portable device comprises a control device for controlling electronic equipment, and

the control device comprises a television remote control device.

Claim 47 (new): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input apparatus comprises a keyboard.

Claim 48 (new): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input device comprises a voice input device.

Claim 49 (new): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input device comprises a biometric sensor.